

The Santa Clarion

Santa Clara Community Organization Newsletter
Vol. 1 No. 9 July 2006

The BIG "So What?"

- ❖ What's the big deal about annexation?
- ❖ What does stormwater conveyance have to do with me? What does that mean anyway?
- ❖ What's going to happen with the Santa Clara Elementary School site?
- ❖ What's being done about parks and open space in Santa Clara?
- ❖ What's the Metro Plan? The Region 2050 Plan? How do they affect me and where I live?
- ❖ What do these notices mean that I get from the Planning & Development Department?
- ❖ What's this Transition Team/Task Force doing and why should I care?
- ❖ Who decides what kind of commercial development goes into our neighborhoods?
- ❖ Who's going to fix the traffic problems in Santa Clara?
- ❖ Who is listening to me anyway?



Feeling a little overwhelmed? It's an awesome task to keep up with everything that is going on in Santa Clara, so much of the time we put on blinders and drive from home to work and back again trying not to see or think about the changes happening around us. But... it doesn't have to be that way. Each of us is part of this community. We live in neighborhoods near people and businesses. When you go to work tomorrow or travel around your neighborhood, think about what you like AND what you'd like to change. What makes this the place you chose to live? What is important to you about your street, your neighborhood, the overall environment in which you live? How do you feel about that new development going up next door, down the block or around the bend?

Your Santa Clara Community Organization (SCCO) is the place these and many other issues are confronted. It is the BEST opportunity for neighbors to come together and discuss the things that matter to them most. SCCO has a nine-member board of Santa Clara residents, representing both incorporated and non-incorporated citizens. *Meetings are the first Thursday of the month and all meetings are open to the public.* The board counts on the participation of residents to help guide its recommendations and actions. It functions best when the breadth and depth of the community is involved.

Especially Now. . .

Santa Clara is at a unique crossroad. Residential and commercial development is booming and seemingly happening without significant community input. Agricultural land is being rezoned to accommodate residential expansion. We are the northern edge of the urban growth boundary. We lack a community park and sufficient recreational services. We do not have a 'community center'. You can be a part of the solution to unchecked development, loss of precious agricultural lands, traffic nightmares, lack of developed parks and open spaces. Come to a meeting, meet your neighbors, get engaged. You have a voice and you can be heard. We, the citizens of Santa Clara, can make a difference!

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

◆ SCCO General Meeting:

August 3, 2006, 7:30 p.m., Santa Clara Community Center, 2615 River Road
Agenda: Public Acceptance of the "Santa Clara Plan" & City staff on "Neighborhood Initiative"

◆ SCCO Board Meeting:

September 7, 2006, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Santa Clara Community Center, 2615 River Road
Agenda: Presentation & Discussion on "Santa Clara Neighborhoods: Development and Protection"

◆ Second Annual SCCO Community Picnic:

Saturday, September 9, 1-4 p.m. at Awbrey Park. Bring a picnic lunch.
We'll provide some "fixins, fun and frivolity". City and County elected officials will be on hand

Note:
NEW time!

"Help" Wanted

The River Road/Santa Clara Volunteer Library is located at 105 Oakleigh Dr (just south of the Goodwill store on River Rd). Family Membership is only \$10/year. Call 607-1882 for hours and programs.

❖ Have some spare time to volunteer? Call Linda Huston at 688-1621. **Special need:** someone available on Saturdays to staff the library. Call Linda at the number above.



SCCO's Land Use sub-committee reviews all area land use applications (zoning changes, flag lots, proposed development plans) and makes recommendations to the Planning Commission. If you are interested in learning more about the land use application process or might be interested in being on this committee, call Ellen Hyman at 461-5400 or send her an email at: elly47@comcast.net.



Your help is needed, especially if you live in an area where flooding is a regular occurrence. When it rains and/or floods, get out there with your cameras and take pictures. In addition to anecdotal stories, we need to compile hard evidence of what happens to our lands when it rains. This will guide stormwater abatement protocols and help build a case for environmentally sound stormwater alternatives.



SCCO is looking for members who have skills, time and energy to donate to the community. Are you good with computers? Know about land use regulations and the City Code? Do you like talking with your neighbors? Have you ever done any fund raising? Do you like to dream about possibilities? We need your energy and enthusiasm. Come to the next meeting and check us out!

Land Use Issues

Mr. Yoon Shin, owner of PacInfo.Com, has purchased land between Hunsaker and Azalea that includes several stores (Mini Pet Mart, My Little Children) and is approximately 1.6 acres. He is seeking permission to rezone the property and join two tax lots into one. Mr. Shin spoke at the July SCCO meeting and took suggestions from those present about how to develop this piece of land. Some of the suggestions include: a two-story building with commercial stores below and housing above, open space for people to gather, and a new restaurant. If you'd like to contact him directly and share your thoughts, he can be reached at 344-5006.

Check Us Out Online

Visit the Santa Clara Community Organization and other Neighborhood Associations on the web at: <http://www.eugene-or.gov>. Click on "Neighborhoods" under "City Quick Links".

Boundary Commission and Street Annexation

Jerry Finigan, SCCO Chair

On July 11 the Lane County Boundary Commission met to decide about an annexation request by Eugene School District 4J to annex two elementary schools in Santa Clara: Awbrey Park and Spring Creek. In conjunction with this, the School District allowed the City to name streets adjacent to these schools to be included in the annexation. These would include nearly all of Irvington Drive and Blackfoot Avenue, a portion of Crocker Road, and a portion of West Hilliard Lane.

The first hearing was held on April 6 with many Santa Clara residents attending and objecting to the street annexations as they seemed superfluous to the annexation of the two schools and appeared to be simply a way of "islanding" property so the City might annex those areas without needing to obtain residents' permission.

The June 1 Boundary Commission meeting did not have a quorum so a vote was postponed until the July 11 meeting at which time some commissioners expressed a concern that City staff might be acting without City Council knowledge or approval of these street annexations. They said it appeared the City had changed its rationale for these annexations and the annexations had become substantially more ambitious as time progressed. Consequently members of the Boundary Commission indicated their intention to debate this policy and determine the will of the City Council on this matter.

Still, there was concern that safety of school children might be at stake, and it was determined streets patrolled by Eugene city police would be safer than if they continued under County jurisdiction with its police protection spread so thin. So the Boundary Commission (vote was 4-1) approved the annexation in its entirety, with the addition of the new portion of Oroyan Street that has been recently constructed north of Lynnbrook to serve Ray's Food Place and the residential development nearby.

Policy Statement

This is the official newsletter of the Santa Clara Community Organization. Newsletters are published and distributed courtesy of the City of Eugene. Newsletters are produced by neighborhood volunteers and are free to residents and businesses of the neighborhood. Space is available for letters to the editor with editorial comments from neighbors. All signed letters will be published as space permits. Editorials express the author's views, not the position of the neighborhood association, the City's elected officials, or City staff. Unless otherwise stated all articles are written by Ellen Hyman.

Newsletter Staff

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In My Opinion: Santa Clara Elementary School Site

by Ellen Hyman, SCCO Board Member

Do you want recreation opportunities in Santa Clara? The YMCA is looking to develop a second recreational center in either Santa Clara or Bethel. Their current site sits on about 1.3 acres. The Santa Clara site is 7.62 acres and located on River Road which provides easy access. The land is currently owned by School District 4J. The 4J Board of Directors is hoping to have the land rezoned commercial and then sell it to a developer for more than \$7 million.

If we can help the YMCA acquire the land, they are willing to work with the community on the design of a new recreational facility. The Y would manage the facility, just as they do at their place in south Eugene. In addition to housing recreational space (ball courts, exercise equipment), a swimming pool, tennis court and childcare, the new building could also house a community center, meeting rooms, an auditorium, a new library. The possibilities are exciting to consider.

We need to take on the tasks of working with the school district, pursuing funding from all possible sources, and promoting the idea within the community. In short, we need your help to make this vision a reality. Please get involved and help create a viable future for our community today. Contact Ellen Hyman at 461-5400 or email her at elly47@comcast.net.

Neighborhood Association Initiative

The Neighborhood Association Initiative is one of seven Eugene City Council priority issues. Please join your neighbors at the August 3rd Santa Clara Community Organization General Meeting as we learn more about Council's adopted action plan and give them feedback as to whether or not it's clear and complete. The Council-adopted initiative is available on the web (www.eugene-or.gov, then select City Hall >> Mayor and City Council >> Priority Issues >> 2/10/06 Neighborhood Initiative Action Plan). A "non-bureaucratic" version will be available prior to the meeting. Please let Jerry Finigan know if you want to be added to his e-mail distribution list for the document (e-mail: jerfinigan@comcast.net). Additional ongoing resources have been allocated to implement this plan. Feedback from the associations will guide the staff recommendation to Council on how those resources will be spent. This is a great opportunity for you to share your thoughts on the Initiative!

—submitted by Beth Bridges, Neighborhood Services

SCCO NEEDS YOUR FEEDBACK

Please take a few minutes to answer these questions and return this portion to:

SCCO c/o Jerry Finigan, 1250 Irvington Rd., Eugene, OR 97404

I support the idea of a YMCA/community center on the old Santa Clara Elementary School site. YES_____ NO_____

I am interested in learning more about stormwater conveyance issues as it relates to development in Santa Clara. YES_____ NO_____

I want to become more involved in my neighborhood and community. YES_____ NO_____

The most important issue to me about my neighborhood is: _____

What I like best about living in Santa Clara is _____

I plan to be at the next SCCO meeting. YES_____ NO_____

Keep me posted! Add my name and email address to your database:

Name: _____

Email: _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INPUT

What is SCCO?

The Santa Clara Community Organization has been around since 1968 when a group of Santa Clara citizens, concerned about the future of this area, incorporated as the Santa Clara Development Association. In 1977 the group was given recognition in the newly-created Lane County local community program and renamed the Santa Clara Community Organization. In 1987 the City of Eugene achieved some dominion over the Santa Clara and River Road communities when the area was accepted into their Metropolitan Plan. At that time both the River Road and Santa Clara Community Organizations were given limited recognition and funding for City residents by the City of Eugene as representatives of their respective areas.

This seems to be a crucial time in the development of Santa Clara. The Santa Clara Community Organization is governed by a set of bylaws approved both by Lane County and the City of Eugene, and is guided by a board of nine local volunteers, elected to two-year terms. Funding from the City now covers all residents of Santa Clara. Decisions made in the next few years may determine how Santa Clara will look fifty years from now. Community members who are concerned about changes occurring around them have the potential of controlling those changes by volunteering a little of their time and ideas in the workings of the Santa Clara Community Organization.

—submitted by Jerry Finigan

Board Members and how to reach them:

Chair: Jerry Finigan, jerfinigan@comcast.net
Vice-Chair: Russell Bevans, russellbevans@att.net
Secretary: Ann Vaughn, vaughn_a@comcast.net
Robert Fauvre, netersa3@peoplepc.com
Lee Hunsaker, (no email address)
Ellen Hyman, elly47@comcast.net
Charles Moss, cam35@earthlink.net
Kate Perle, fccf@efn.org
Patrice Philpott, kpphilpott@comcast.net

★ Summer Reading Program ★

Adults with young children: are you looking for fun? Every Wednesday morning between 10:00 and 11:30 the River Road/Santa Clara Volunteer Library, with grant support from the Lane Library League, is hosting a free story time for children in kindergarten to 3rd grade. At our last meeting we read a book about a dog who needed friends, made snack jars for our pets and ate animal crackers. The kids can check out books from the library and spend hours during the week using their imagination while they develop their interest in reading. Summer Reading Adventures meets at the River Road Park Annex (1055 River Road, next to Budget Blinds) and runs through August 16th. Come and meet your neighbors and see what your community has done to bring you exciting, new library services. Questions? Contact Patrice at 520-0726.

—submitted by Patrice Philpott



Santa Clara Community Organization

c/o Neighborhood Services

99 W. 10th Avenue

Eugene, OR 97401

Visit Neighborhoods on the Web: www.eugene-or.gov

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